

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-21 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-21 stand rejected. By way of this paper, claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16, and 20 have been amended; and new claims 22-28 are been added.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 1 includes the feature of a heater being operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path that is operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. In other words, the operative association of the heater with the media support in claim 1 is accomplished through the conductive path which is operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. Support for this feature can be found on at least page 2, lines 26 and 27; page 6, lines 5-10, 27 and 28; and page 7, lines 10-12, of Applicants' specification and in at least the following paragraphs of the corresponding application publication: paragraphs [0007] last sentence; [0028]; [0032] first sentence; and [0034] first sentence. As such, Applicants submit that claim 1 complies with the written description requirement. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16, 18-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the feature of a heater being operatively associated with a media support through a conductive path connected to the media support... Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 2, lines 22-27; page 5, lines 15-25; page 6, lines 5-10, and 27-31; page 7, lines 10-20; and the originally presented claims, see, for example, claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, of Applicants' specification, and in at least

paragraphs [0007], [0026], [0028], [0032], [0034], and the claims, see, for example, claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, of the application publication of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 16 have been amended in order to maintain consistency with amended claim 1.

Independent claim 19 includes the feature of a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with a media support... Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

Applicants submit that the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference discloses a fixing device 108 that accomplishes localized heat production in fixing roller 127 using induction, paragraphs [0072] through [0077] of the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

As disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, a high frequency magnetic flux generated by a high frequency current supplied from an excitation circuit to an electromagnetic induction coil 30 which includes a magnetic material core 9 produces an eddy current in a fixing roller 127. Fixing roller 127 includes an electromagnetic induction heat generating member. However, the electromagnetic induction heat generating member is fixing roller 127 because eddy current induced in fixing roller 127 by electromagnetic induction coil unit 30 generates heat directly in fixing roller 127, paragraphs [0075] and [0076].

Fixing roller 127 is hollow and rotatably positioned in fixing device 108, paragraphs [0072] and [0074]. Induction coil 30, including magnetic material core 9, is inserted into fixing roller 127 and is non-rotatably disposed in place, paragraph [0075].

A toner image is fixed using a combination of heat and pressure. The heat is supplied by fixing roller 127. The pressure is supplied from fixing roller 127 and elastic pressure roller 128, paragraphs [0077] and [0073].

As such, induction coil 30, as disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not a heater because it is the electromagnetic induction heat generating member of fixing roller 127 that produces heat. In fact, excessive heating of induction coil 30 can reduce the heating efficiency of fixing roller 127, paragraph [0010]. Additionally, magnetic material core 9, as disclosed in the

Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not an extension because induction coil 30 which includes magnetic material core 9 generates or concentrates magnetic flux.

However, even if induction coil 30 and magnetic material core 9 could be considered a heater and an extension, respectively, there is no conductive path connected to the media support disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. Also, there are no extensions in contact with the media support disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. In fact, a gap exists between induction coil 30 and fixing roller 127, and a gap exists between magnetic material core 9 and fixing roller 127, see FIG. 2. These gaps allow fixing roller 127 to rotate after induction coil 30 and magnetic material core 9 are inserted into fixing roller 127 and non-rotatably disposed in place.

In contrast, Applicants' invention accomplishes heat transfer using conduction through a conductive path connected to a media support as recited in claim 1; or through each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with a media support as recited in claim 19. It can not be said that either of these features of Applicants' invention are disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. As such, claims 2-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 21 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Steele ('292) reference.

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly describe the feature of providing an extension connected to a support, and conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support... Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 2, lines 22-27; page 5, lines 15-25; page 6, lines 5-10, and 27-31; page 7, lines 10-20; and the originally presented claims, see, for example, claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, of Applicants' specification, and in at least paragraphs [0007], [0026], [0028], [0032], [0034], and the claims, see, for example, claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, of the application publication of Applicants' invention. Applicants submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Steele ('292) reference discloses a heating station 31 that includes a radiant heater 43 (Fig. 2; col. 6, line 61 through col. 7, line 15). Alternatively, a radiant heater 47 can be provided at a loading station (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 18-30). As such, the Steele ('292) reference discloses an apparatus that accomplishes heat transfer by radiating heat from a source, commonly referred to as radiation.

Additionally, the Steele ('292) reference discloses that a source of heated air can replace the radiant heaters (col. 7, lines 37-43). As such, the Steele ('292) reference discloses an apparatus that accomplishes heat transfer using air heated by a source, commonly referred to as convection.

The Steele ('292) reference also discloses that a heated platen surface can replace the heaters described above but does not provide details on how heating of the platen surface is accomplished (col. 7, lines 44-47).

In contrast, Applicants' invention accomplishes heat transfer using conduction by providing an extension connected to a support, and conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support. It can not be said that the Steele ('292) reference discloses this feature of Applicants' invention. This is true even when it is assumed that the heated platen surface described above is accomplished using conduction because the Steele ('292) reference does not disclose how heating of the platen surface is accomplished. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Schwiebert ('668) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend indirectly from claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 15 are considered patentable for at least the reasons set forth in Applicants' response mailed November 8, 2005, which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1 over the Schwiebert ('668) reference.

In the event the Examiner intended to reject claims 14 and 15 using the combination of the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 15, depending from claim 1, are

considered patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1 over the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 22-29 have been added by way of this paper. Support for claims 22-28 can be found on at least page 2, lines 22-27; page 5, lines 15-25; page 6, lines 5-10, 18-23, and 27-31; page 7, lines 19, and 10-20; of Applicants' specification and in at least paragraphs [0007], [0026], [0028], [0030], [0032], [0033], and [0034] of the application publication of Applicants' invention.

Independent claim 22 describes a drying system comprising: a media support having a body portion; a heat conductive extension affixed to the body portion of the media support; and a heater affixed to the extension at a location spaced apart from the media support. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this drying system.

As discussed above with reference to claims 1 and 19, induction coil 30, as disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not a heater. Additionally, magnetic material core 9, as disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not an extension.

However, even if induction coil 30 and magnetic material core 9 could be considered a heater and an extension, respectively, there is no a heat conductive extension affixed to the body portion of the media support disclosed in the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. As discussed above, a gap exists between induction coil 30 and fixing roller 127, and a gap exists between magnetic material core 9 and fixing roller 127, see FIG. 2. These gaps allow fixing roller 127 to rotate after induction coil 30 and magnetic material core 9 are inserted into fixing roller 127 and non-rotatably disposed in place. Accordingly, allowance of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

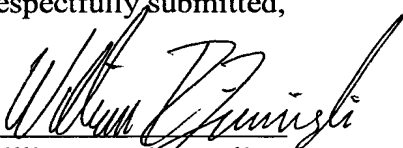
Claims 23-29 depend from independent claim 22. As such, claims 23-29 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.